



South Pima Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order/Welcome and Council Introductions

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First South Pima Regional Partnership Council was held on February 19, 2013 at Arivaca Action Center, 15925 West Universal Ranch Road, Arivaca, Arizona 85601.

Vice Chair Connie Espinoza called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 a.m. and called upon members to briefly introduce themselves.

Members Present: Connie Espinoza, Cyndi Barningham, Tony Bruno, Cheryl McGlothlen, Nathan McCann, Debbie Palmer and Susan Pace

Members Absent: Paul Ohm and Fran Driver

Others Present: Eleanor Droegemeier, South Pima Regional Director; Erin Lyons, Senior Regional Director; and Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Call to the Public

Erin Lyons, Senior Regional Director, *First Things First*: Ms. Lyons addressed the Regional Council on behalf of the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council and Regional Director, Jessica Brisson. She provided information about a systems issue related to accessibility of participants enrolled in Communities of Practice identified by Central Pima within the professional development strategies. These also may impact South and North Pima regions, so they wished to inform those councils. Staff and grantees found that 44 Communities of Practice participants were in limbo at Pima Community College with the Pathways program. Members had questions which Ms. Lyons briefly addressed and member McCann encouraged the members to not engage further during call to the public. Ms. Lyons thanked Member McCann and stated that she and other staff would keep members informed.

Gloria Williams, *Arivaca Action Center and Sopor School*: Ms. Williams welcomed the Regional Council and expressed gratitude for all their support. She provided updates on the Arivaca Action Center and Early Learning Center, as well as updates on the Sopor Elementary School Pre-K program. She concluded with stories shared by parents about the improvement in their children since attending the Sopor Preschool.

Rachel Barry, Director and Co-teacher, *Arivaca Action Early Learning Center*: Ms. Barry thanked the Regional Council and informed them that she and her co-teacher Natalie had been trying to establish an early childhood center in the community for five years. She informed the members that they currently are serving 12 children, and that their goal is to be as excellent a center as Sopor Pre-school in Amado, where her son had such visible improvement.

Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2013 South Pima Regional Partnership Council Meeting

A motion was made by member Susan Pace that the South Pima Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the January 17, 2013 South Pima Regional Partnership Council meeting as presented, seconded by member Cyndi Barningham. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest

Vice Chair Espinoza asked members to look at the agenda and declare any conflicts they may have. No members declared conflicts with items this agenda.

South Pima 2014 Needs and Assets Report: Discussion & Possible Approval of Vendor

Vice Chair Espinoza introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to Regional Director Eleanor Droegemeier. Ms. Droegemeier provided the Regional Council with an overview of the Needs and Assets process and available vendors. She asked members if they have any questions.

A motion was made by member Nathan McCann that the South Pima Regional Partnership Council approve Donelson Consulting, LLC to conduct the South Pima 2014 Needs and Assets Report, seconded by member Tony Bruno. Motion carried.

Chair and Vice Chair Meeting Update: Discussion

Vice Chair Espinoza introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to member Bruno. Member Bruno stated first that he was very impressed with the huge improvement in the overall dynamics of the Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting from a few years ago. He shared updated information regarding Discretionary Funding and the Communications Plan. He asked Ms. Droegemeier to give the update on Early Learning. Ms. Droegemeier provided the members with updates regarding Rhian's meetings with the governor's

office and some legislative updates. Rhian and the executive team are also researching what other states are doing regarding early childhood education. Members had some questions about the governor's budget in regards to Early Childhood and Senior Director Erin Lyons provided some concrete numbers as they stand at this point. Members then had discussion about additional funding sources for Early Childhood, and expressed hesitation in expecting too much in the current environment with the lack of K-12 funding interest or ideas presented by the legislature.

Member Bruno then provided updates on Coordination & Collaboration and stated he thinks the Pima councils are "leading the charge." He then asked Ms., Droegemeier to provide updates on the Benchmarks, which she did. No members had further questions.

Community Awareness and Outreach Update

Vice Chair Connie Espinoza introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. DeMars. Ms. DeMars shared that the focus of the revised Communications Plan is now engagement as requested by community partners. She provided information on the recent children's event at the University of Arizona, and the upcoming Festival of Books. She ended with information and a story about the great focus on Early Childhood Education at Greater Tucson Leadership's Education Day.

Regional Director's Report

Ms. Droegemeier began by highlighting the expenditure report and providing information about Quality First ratings and scholarships. Members had questions and engaged in discussion around accessibility to the Quality First program for providers in the region, policies on the rating, and what types of programs are currently participating. All questions were addressed or will be followed up on. Members also had questions on Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships and the rating process. Ms. Droegemeier then provided updates on the March 6th meeting by providing the new location and time and asking member to identify both successes to share and questions to address with the Board members. Members concurred that bringing services to rural regions such as Ajo, Arivaca and Three points are an excellent example of success, and provided additional ideas related to the presentation of the information. Members also concurred with sharing the video from the Community Connector in Sasabe shared at last month's meeting. Members suggested having the board address more in detail legislative information, benchmarks around the state and more policy and vision questions, such as what else can we do as an organization to expand access. Ms. Droegemeier provided an update on the regional boundaries taskforce, and members had a few questions around funding impacts if changes are made. Members then provided Ms. Droegemeier with questions for Rhian's visit in April, such as: long term funding plans for the organization, and if public/private partnerships and federal grants are being researched, and if there are regions that have been successful in reaching the family providers (FFN population) and what their strategies have been.

General Discussion

Member Tony Bruno shared two updates, one regarding a grant application just released by Pima County and what the grant entails, the other that at a recent conference he attended in Albuquerque, First Things First was mentioned as a model that could be used in reaching tribal communities in the state. Ms. Droegemeier made an announcement that members could take a mini tour of the building after the meeting if they had not had the chance prior, and that she would also be touring the clinic in town if anyone wished to join her. Administrative Assistant Siobhan McDonald announced she would be out of the office for two weeks in March and asked members to contact her colleagues for administrative help in her absence. Vice Chair Espinoza asked for Ms. Droegemeier and Ms. Lyons to keep the regional council notified regarding the discussion Central Pima is having with grantees on the professional development systems issues they are having, and let the South Pima council know how they might participate.

Call to the Public

Gemma Perry-Madril, Amado Parent, *Sopori Pre-School*: Ms. Williams informed the Regional Council that this parent had to leave and so was not able to address the council.

Adjourn

A motion was made by member Tony Bruno to adjourn the meeting, seconded by member Cyndi Barningham. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:01 a.m.

Submitted By _____
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Fran Driver, Chair

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.